has been sent by the Central Government to the State Government; and

(c) if so, by when the proposed airbus service will be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Infrastructure facilities are available for operation of Airbus-320 type of aircraft at Bhopal airport.

(c) Airline-operators are free to operate airbus service depending upon traffic potential, commercial viability and availability of aircraft.

Proposed New Marketing Policy by IA

†1240. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines propose to prepare a new marketing policy for the new millennium;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the airlines with whom a package agreement is proposed to be entered into and by when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has already embarked upon a dynamic marketing strategy which will take care of the market requirement in the new millenaium.

(c) No decision about the need for strategic alliances with other airlines has been taken so far.

Post Offices in Adivasi Districts of Maharashtra

1241. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices with a single man operation system in existence in Adivasi Districts of Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government propose to promote such post offices in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when this scheme would be in operation?

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†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of post offices with a single man operation functioning in the Adivasi districts of Maharashtra is 266.

(b) and (c) Post Offices are opend on norm-bases justifications, approval of targets and resources available. The establishment of each office depends upon the workload of that office. Targets are fixed for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and Departmental Sub Post Offices in the rural areas of the country and whether the proposed post office will be opened with the establishment of a single person or more is worked out at the time of formulation of each such proposal. There is a target for opening 100 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and Deapartmental Sub Post Offices during the Annual Plan 1999-2000, in the tribal areas of the country, out of which 7 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and One Departmental Sub Post Office will be opened in Maharashtra subject to norm-based justification and availability of resources.

Village Public Telephone Scheme

1242. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not satisfied with the progress made with regard to Village Public Telephone Scheme;

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed by Government;

(c) the number of such telephones provided during the last three years, State-wise separately; and

(d) the number of such telephones proposed to be provided during the current year, State-wise separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) There are 607,491 villages in the country. Upto 30.11.1999, Village Public Telephones have been provided in 346,842 villages. The Government plans are to cover the remaining 260,649 villages by March, 2002. Private Service Providers will also contribute in achiving this objective.

(c) and (d) The number of telephone provided during the last